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NEWS RELEASE

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El Salvadorian found guilty of a federal drug trafficking offense

*--ICE agents intercept package destined for defendant's residence that
contained statue with more than 300 grams of cocaine inside --*

WASHINGTON - A 40-year-old District of Columbia resident, Leonel Renee Guerrero, 40, of Washington, D.C., was found guilty today by a federal jury of Unlawful Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, announced U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor. The charge originated from the execution of a search warrant at Guerrero's residence in Northwest Washington. Guerrero, who is a citizen of El Salvador, will be sentenced by U.S. District Judge James Robertson in August 2009.

According to the government's evidence, on October 15, 2008, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents assigned in Washington, D.C., received information from ICE agents in Miami of the seizure of a DHL parcel containing cocaine concealed in a gold statue, destined for 639 Farragut Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

On October 17, 2008, an ICE agent acting in an undercover capacity as a DHL delivery man delivered the target package to an individual later identified as the defendant, Leonel Renee Guerrero. Subsequently, other ICE agents executed the search warrant of the residence. After knocking on the front door of the location and announcing police with a search warrant, the agents stopped the defendant near the exit from the basement of his residence and a co-defendant, Jose Sacareas, who had previously pled guilty and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in March 2009.

The DHL controlled package was discovered in the back room of the basement. The wooden base to the statue and the gold colored statue containing the cocaine were found separately among other items stored in the back room. The gold colored statue contained

more than 300 grams of cocaine.

During a further search of the residence, the agents seized from the bedroom of the co-defendant more than 28 grams of cocaine in a large bag and seven small zip lock bags, a jar of creatine a substance commonly used to “cut” cocaine, small zip locked baggies of the same type containing the cocaine, and \$1,679.00 in cash.

In a further search of the residence, the agents seized from the bedroom of defendant Leonel Guerrero a jar of creatine of the same type and brand seized in the co-defendant’s bedroom, two coffee mill/spice blenders with cocaine residue and a small digital scale with cocaine residue and numerous empty zip locked bags used in the distribution of cocaine.

In announcing the guilty verdict, U.S. Attorney Taylor commended the numerous special agents, officers, and officials from ICE, Custom and Border Protection, Metropolitan Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration for their work on the investigation and prosecution of this case. U.S. Attorney Taylor also commended Paralegal Specialist Candace Battle and Legal Assistant Tammy Scott, as well as Litigation Support Specialist Timothy Linder, who assisted in the investigation and prosecution. Finally, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Emory V. Cole, who investigated and prosecuted this matter.

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